

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please replace paragraph [040] on page 15 with the following paragraph:

[040] FIG. 9 displays slot blots and expression levels for three embryogenesis-related genes.

FIG. 10 depicts clone LPS-097 sequence (SEQ ID NO: 339) (LP2-3 differential display fragment.)

FIG. 11 displays a northern blot for the LP2-3 gene during stages 1-3.

FIG. 12 displays a slot blot of total RNA from somatic embryo tissue probed with an LP2-3-specific probe. Panel A depicts an image of the slot blot and panel B depicts quantitation of the image.

FIG. 13 displays a slot blot of total RNA from zygotic embryo tissue probed with an LP2-3-specific probe. Panel A depicts an image of the slot blot and panel B depicts quantitation of the image.

Please replace paragraph [041] on page 15 with the following paragraph:

[041] FIG. 14 depicts the quantified expression of early zygotic embryos compared to early somatic embryos. Panel A depicts an image of the slot blot and panel B depicts quantitation of the image.